

In the Claims:

Please cancel claim 4, without prejudice.

Please amend claim 1 and add new claims 9 and 10 as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A fastener for composite material

comprising:

a shaft,

an undercut head at a first end of the shaft,

a point at the other end of the shaft,

a first portion of the shaft adjacent the point being threaded, and  
extending ~~about one-half over a portion of the total length of the shaft, the threads having~~  
three radial lobes, and

a second portion of the shaft adjacent the head not being threaded, said  
second portion having a plurality of spaced rings-rings, the spaced rings reducing  
mushrooming of the composite material when the fastener is used in the composite material.

2. (Original) The fastener of claim 1 comprising a knurled portion  
between said first and second portions.

3. (Original) The fastener of claim 1 wherein said first portion has asymmetrical threads.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Original) The fastener of claim 1 comprising three said rings, wherein said rings are unequally spaced with respect to each other.

6. (Original) The fastener of claim 1 wherein said shaft has a total length TL from an inside surface of said head to said point, the fastener comprising three of said rings, a first of said rings being located about .23 TL from said inside surface, a second of said rings being located about .16 TL from said inside surface, and a third of said rings being located about .07 TL from said inside surface.

7. (Original) The fastener of claim 1 comprising three said rings, wherein said rings are equally spaced with respect to each other.

8. (Original) The fastener of claim 1 wherein said shaft has a total length TL from an inside surface of said head to said point, the fastener comprising three of said rings, a first of said rings being located about .13 TL from said inside surface, a second of said rings being located about .08 TL from said inside surface, and a third of said rings being located about .04 TL from said inside surface.

9. (New) The fastener of claim 1 comprising a shank slot adjacent said point.